

# United States - Japanese Relations In Post World War II Era

## Expectations Based on Historical Precedent

### Purpose:

The relationship of United States and Japan was affected by the past of both countries.

### Target Grade Level: 9

### Essential Questions:

1. Why did Japanese expect a harsh treatment after the war from the United States ?
2. What do you think happened with the relationships between United and States in the past?
3. Why would the United States want to change Japan to a democracy and demilitarize them?

### Rationale:

A nation which uses military force for imperialistic reasons, does not expect mercy and forgiveness upon surrender.

### Materials:

- Timeline of Japanese and United States' past experiences and relationships (Handout A)
- Research information in library

### Activities:

1. Present the Problem: President Harry Truman established the goals of demilitarizing and democratizing Japan. Students review trends from the American past that would cause Truman to select these goals.
2. Utilizing the library's research information and the internet, Groups divided to research past relationships such as:
  - Treatment of Koreans used as slave labor, forced to serve in military and denied their language

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- Treatment of American sailors shipwrecked in Japan
- Treatment of prisoners of war in the Philippines
- The Invasion of China (Nape of Nanking)
- Perry's arrival in Japan
- The Gentleman's agreement
- Oriental Exclusion Act, 1924
- Japanese Relocation Camps
- Fire bomb raids on Tokyo and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3. Students present findings of research to class and plot the event on a timeline.

### Assessment:

Evaluate the quality of the research findings and the timelines.

Homework: Students write the positive and negative, immediate and long-range consequences of demilitarizing and democratizing Japan.

### Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 11

Analyze the consequences of World War II.

*This lesson was originally developed by Dr. Betty Barclay Franks, teacher, Maples Heights City Schools, Ohio for the publication Learning About Our World: Japan. These lessons were revised for this publication by Teresa A. Bica, Supervisor of Elementary Student Teachers at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*